

SUBSTITUTE ABSTRACT

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A communication system includes first and second terminals which are able to communicate control messages to each other. One of the terminals can reconfigure itself by a process of service negotiations with the other terminal where the capabilities of the reconfigurable terminal are provided to the other terminal. Each of the terminals has a transceiver, a memory for storing software functions, and a processor for controlling the operation of the terminal in accordance with stored software functions. At least one of the software functions is alterable in response to the receipt of a control message containing the new software function plus interface software required by the processor in building a new function into an actual implementation on the terminal. The communication system may be a cordless and/or cellular telephone system where messages are sent over-the-air, or a corded system where messages are relayed by landline.